survey of these areas has been made; and

(f) by when Government propose to undertake mining in that area?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS (SMT. MARGARET ALVA): (a) to (f) A Statement is laid on the Table of the House.

Statement

Uranium Deposit in Meghalaya

(a) Yes, Sir. Exploratory survey and investigations have revealed the occurrence of a sizeable amount of sandstone type uranium deposits at Domiasiat, West Khasi Hills, Meghalaya.

(b) It is a low to medium tonnage relatively high grade uranium deposit, the average grade being 0.10 percent U 308. Uranium at Domiasiat has been estimated at 9,559 Tonnes U 308 contained in 9.22 Million Tonnes of ore.

(c) Reconnaissance Radiometric surveys for uranium have been initiated in domiasiat and surrounding areas during 1984.

(d) An area of about 3 sq. kms will be required for mining and 7 sq. kms would be required for milling and other infrastructural facilities.

(e) and (f) A number of uranium occurrences have been located in the area adjoining domiasiat viz. Phot Pyrnotbri, Phot Jimrey, Phot Rang-Teng Peng, Phot Mawrang and Phot Khandrowo. Detailed investigations including geological mapping, exploratory drilling around domiasiat have indicated low order uranium mineralisation. Further drilling in Phlangdiloin and Mawkyrwat areas is in progress. Test mining for drawing bulk samples for amenability tests is being taken up. Commencement of full scale mining may take over two years.

Prices of mustard oil

*68. SHRI SURESH PACHOURI: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that mustard oil prices are rising as reported in the Business and Political Observer dated the 14th August, 1991;

(b) whether it is a fact that edible oil prices are likely to affect prices of other commodities also, specially foodgrains; and

(c) if so, the steps taken by Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL SUPPLIES AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI KAMALUDDIN AHMED): (a) Mustard oil prices had been rising in the recent past. Of late, however, the prices are showing a downward trend.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) The steps taken by the Government to contain prices of edible oils are:

(i) Stock limits of oilseeds and oils by dealers and processors and manufacturers' of edible oils/vanaspati have been reduced.

(ii) The permission to use expeller mustard oil in the manufacture of Vanaspati has been withdrawn with effect from 1st August, 1991.

(iii) RBI has frozen cash credit limit.

(iv) Central Government has directed all State Governments/ Union Territories to have strict surveillance on the availability and price of edible oils as also to undertake dehoarding operations.

(v) A Cabinet Committee on Prices has been constituted for monitoring the prices of essential commodities and ensuring their supplies.

(vi) Edible Oils have been exempted from the recent railway freight hike in the Railway Budget for 1991-92.

(vii) Vegetable liquid oils have been completely exempted from excise duty.

Cost of Maruti Car

*69. SHRI RAM AWADHESH SINGH:
SHRI CHIMANBHAI MEHTA:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Maruti car which was designed to cost Rs. 45,000 is costing Rs. 1.50 lakh at present and whether it is a fact that 60 per cent of the domestic car market is captured by Maruti Udyog Ltd.

(b) whether it is a fact that the above car company is jacking up their prices often; if so, what are the details thereof for the last three years;

(c) whether it is also a fact that only four companies have monopolised car manufacturing in the country; and

(d) whether applications for manufacturing passenger cars from other Indian companies have not been cleared; if so, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY (SHRI P. K. THUNGON): (a) to (d) A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

Statement

(a) The maruti-800 car was initially sold at an ex-factory price of Rs. 47,500. The price of the model which replaced this car in 1986 is now Rs. 1,50,823. Maruti cars commanded about 54 per cent market share in 1990-91 among passenger cars.

(b) The ex-factory prices of Maruti-800 cc car from 1.3.88 are indicated below:—

Date effective from	Price in Rs.
01-03-1988	73,210/-
21-05-1988	77,260/-
16-01-1989	80,000/-
01-03-1989	86,510/-
18-08-1989	92,616/-
20-03-1990	96,075/-
08-05-1990	99,984/-
22-08-1990	1,07,190/-
20-12-1990	1,11,769/-
08-04-1991	1,20,251/-
25-07-1991	1,50,823/-